

Fumes kill three employees of mining company

THREE employees of an international mining company (name withheld) operating in the Komu area of Oyo State have been reportedly killed by gaseous fumes from the exhaust of a water pumping machine while working in a mining pit.

Spokeswoman for the Oyo State Police Command, Ms Olabisi Okuwobi, told the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Ibadan that the firm's Chief Security Officer, Mr. Sunday Timkat, reported the incident to the police.

Okuwobi said Timkat had reported that some of the employees of the company, with its headquarters in Abuja, were evacuating water from the mining pit when they were suffocated by fumes.

"Timkat said that during the process, one of them, Nuhu Idris, 35, who entered the pit last was the first to be brought out dead after he suffocated as a result of the intake of gaseous fumes from the exhaust of the water pumping machine," Okuwobi

said.

She added that two other labourers, Lucky Monday, 28 and Alhaji Ibrahim Albert, 30, also died of suffocation.

The spokeswoman said investigation had shown that there was no foul play and that the police had interrogated relatives and friends of the deceased.

Okuwobi said the remains of the three labourers had been deposited at the General Hospital, Iseyin.